

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 W
-----311413Z 043670 /44

O P 311107Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4725
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1154

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3502

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UK, RH
SUBJ: PRESS SUMMARY: RICHARD SAYS BRITAIN NOT TO SEND TROOPS
TO RHODESIA NOR RUN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BUT BALANCE IT --
ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL REACTION

SUMMARY: ON HIS ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA DEC 30 IVOR RICHARD IS REPORTED
TO HAVE SAID THAT BRITAIN WOULD NOT SEND TROOPS TO
RHODESIA BECAUSE IT SAW NO NEED TO; BRITAIN WOULD APPOINT
A REPRESENTATIVE TO BE IN OVERALL CHARGE OF AN INTERIM
GOVERNMENT, WHICH WILL GIVE ALLEGIANCE TO THE BRITISH
CROWN, BUT HIS ROLE WILL BE A "BALANCING" ONE RATHER
THAN AN EXERCISE OF DIRECT OR EXECUTIVE CONTROL;
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEFORE
MAJORITY RULE IS GRANTED. END SUMMARY.

1. IVOR RICHARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE GENEVA TALKS ON
RHODESIA MET WITH THE PRESS ON HIS ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA
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DEC 30. RICHARD'S REMARKS WERE GIVEN COMMANDING
FRONT-PWGE PLACEMENT IN BOTH ZAMBIAN DAILIES DEC 31.
IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS RICHARD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT
BRITAIN WOULD NOT SEND TROOPS TO RHODESIA BECAUSE IT
SAW NO NEED TO. NEITHER WOULD TROOPS FROM THE
COMMONWEALTH, OR ANY OTHER PEACE KEEPING FORCE BE

REQUIRED. AS RICHARD SAW THE SITUATION, THE PROBLEM IS NOT TO SEND MORE TROOPS IN, BUT ONE OF GETTING BOTH SIDES TO STOP FIGHTING AND BEGIN WORKING TOGETHER.

2. ACCORDING TO RICHARD, THE US AND BRITIAN HAVE NOT WORKED OUT A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT. BRITAIN HAS NO INTENTION OF RUNNING RHODESIA DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, BUT WILL APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE, WHOSE ROLE WILL BE "...A BALANCING ONE SO THAT NEITHER SIDE CAN TAKE BE DECISIONS AGAINST THE SPIRIT AND CONTEXT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE." THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE ALLEGIANCE TO THE BRITISH CROWN, RICHARD OBSERVED.

3. RICHARD SAID THAT DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD AN ELECTION WOULD BE HELD OF THE GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THE BRITISH WOULD GRANT INDEPENDENCE.

4. IN ANSWERS TO RELATED QUESTIONS, RICHARD SAID THAT THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS ON THE CREATION OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE VIEWED FROM A DIFFERENT PROSPECTIVE; AND THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY TO TELL WHETHER THE NEWLY FORMED ZIMBABWE UNITED PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (ZUPO) WOULD ATTEND THE RECONVENED GENEVA TALKS.

5. IN A STRONG EDITORIAL ON THE EVE OF RICHARD'S ARRIVAL, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA NOTED AMONG OTHER POINTS THAT IN THE LIGHT OF THE SMITH REGIME'S 11 YEAR HISTORY IT IS "GULLIBLE" TO BELIEVE THAT A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA CAN BE NEGOTIATED OR ACHIEVED WITHOUT FORCE. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CANNOT MOVE INTO RHODESIA "DECISIVELY"

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WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF ITS OWN ARMY. THE FACT IS THAT REBELS HOLD THE MILITARY INITIATIVE PROVIDING THEM WITH AN UNASSAILABLE NEGOTIATING POSITION. THE AUTHORITY OF A BRITISH ARMY IN RHODESIA WOULD REPRESENT THE "FINAL FRAMEWORK" WITHIN WHICH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT COULD BE IMPOSED ON THZ FIGHTING REBELS. THE EDITORIAL CLOSES WITH A CALL TO ALL INTERESTED AFRICAN PWRITIES TO TAKE STOCK NOW LEST THE PROLONGATION OF NEGOTIATIONS "...REVERSE THE ORDER FROM TESTING WHETHER SMITH CAN SETTLE TO TESTING WHETHER THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND THE FRONTLINE STATES HAVE FELT SMITH'S KNOCKS SUFFICIENTLY TO ACCEPT SOME WESTERN PACKAGE."

6. FOLLOWING RICHARD'S STATEMENT THAT BRITIAN WOULD NOT SEND TROOPS TO RHODESIA (PWRA 1) THE DAILY MAIL IN ITS DEC 31 EDITORIAL EQUATED THE CURRENT BRITISH POSITION WITH THAT OF HAROLD WILSON TEN YEARS AGO. IT CRITICIZED THE CALLAGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING AGREED TO A BRITISH PRESENCE IN RHODESIA ONLY BECAUSE OF PARTY POLITICS. IF THE BRITISH LOOK UPON RHODESIA AS A PART OF PARTY

POLITICS ALL IS LOST. TO SHOW ITS SERIOUS INTENT
BRITAIN MUST ACCEPT THE DESIRES OF THE MAJORITY OF THE
DELEGATES AT GENEVA, NOT RELY ON A CONSENSUS STANDARD.
AS LONG AS SMITH'S AND THE RHODESIAN FRONT'S ACQUIESCENCE
TO PROPOSALS IS REQUIRED THERE WILL NEVER BE A SETTLEMENT
BY CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS OR DISCUSSION. LOW

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, PRESS SUMMARIES, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA03502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D770001-0659
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaahy.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SUMMARY: RICHARD SAYS BRITAIN NOT TO SEND TROOPS TO RHODESIA NOR RUN THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT, BUT BALANCE IT -- ZAMBIAN EDITORIAL REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, UK, RH, (RICHARD, IVOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006